

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 892  
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to congratulate and commend Dr. Carol R. Johnson, Superintendent of Memphis City Schools, upon being named Communicator of the Year by the Memphis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carol R. Johnson, Superintendent of Memphis City Schools, the twenty-first largest school district in the nation, is one such estimable person, who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; she was recently selected to receive the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Communicator of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, the PRSA presents the award annually to a respected member of the community who invests his or her time and talent communicating an inspiring and uplifting message to public audiences throughout the year; Dr. Johnson is being recognized for her remarkable quality of contagious positivity; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson is a highly respected member of the community, and, since arriving two years ago to take the helm of Memphis City Schools, she has served the people of the area and of Tennessee in many ways, consistently exhorting both students and parents with optimism and hope in an effort to improve the city's inadequately performing school system; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson has built a solid bond with a strong base of community supporters who join her in her hopes and dreams for the city's children; she draws tremendous support from all segments of the community, ranging from representatives of professional sports teams, law enforcement agencies, the faith-based community, parents, youth and volunteer organizations, community agencies, private businesses, and "just regular citizens"; and

WHEREAS, during a recent chapter meeting, President of PRSA Memphis Greg Broy recognized Dr. Johnson as a passionate communicator who capably demonstrates composure under pressure and a proven consensus builder with a genuine interest in helping students realize their potential; and

WHEREAS, believing that the most important aspect of education is literacy, Dr. Johnson has introduced a new Memphis City Schools initiative called MCS Reads, encouraging everyone in the Memphis City Schools community to read twenty-five books a year; and

WHEREAS, one of Dr. Johnson's most significant achievements is the removal of eighty-three Memphis City Schools from the state's No Child Left Behind high priority list, a fifty-six percent reduction from the 148 schools on last year's list; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson has distinguished herself as a dedicated professional, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, and an exceptional asset to her community; she has re-energized the teachers, parents, and children of the Memphis City Schools with her compassion, her focus on educating children, and her strong belief in the importance of building relationships throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Johnson has positively affected countless lives through her vision, dedication, and hard work on behalf of the causes of education, community relations, and developing literacy; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional woman truly embodies the spirit and mission of the PRSA, an organization dedicated to the power of effectively communicating a positive message; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carol R. Johnson's remarkable success as an educator, a manager, and a civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with and relate to people from all walks of life, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Memphis City Schools Superintendent Dr. Carol R. Johnson, a compassionate educator and public servant committed to the highest ideals of literacy and quality education for all, for her honorable and astute service to the children of

Tennessee, congratulate her as the recipient of the Public Relations Society of America Communicator of the Year award, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of her resolution be prepared for presentation with her final clause omitted from such copy.